

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 44, 50, 54 and 55 are amended. Claims 56 – 58 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claim 15 and allowable subject matter in other dependent claims. The amendments made herein are made to include what the Examiner has indicated should be allowable subject matter. Entry of this amendment is therefore solicited.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 16-20, 24-28, 32-34, 37-38, 40, 44-47, 50-51 and 53 are not unpatentable over Lee in view of Kozdon and Acharya under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Independent claims 1, 44, 50, 54 and 44 now recite that the data indicating an identification for the handover includes information that defines a handover number assigned by the first network to the handover. None of the prior art documents disclose the combination of features as required by the independent claims. The Examiner indicates that the amended independent claims are allowable (see page 10, paragraph 1 of the Office Action). Therefore, the claims as they now stand should be allowable.

Neither Lee nor Kozdon teach that the second call originates from the mobile station and that the first network transmits data to the mobile station, the data indicating an identification for the handover as recited in claim 1. This is acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action dated 11 April 2007.

Acharya does not disclose the feature of transmitting data as required by the independent claims. The Examiner asserts that Acharya discloses the feature that the first network transmits data to the mobile station indicating an identification for the handover. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner on this point, but notes that the claim language has been clarified to define that the data includes a

handover number assigned by the first network to the handover. Thus, the claims are not obvious over the proposed combination of references.

Acharya discloses a general inter-switch handoff arrangement, Acharya is concerned with how to re-establish the datapaths of a connection after a handover. As the mobile station moves from the coverage of one base station to another base station, it listens for the signal of another station, together with the current station. Based on measurements of the signal, the mobile terminal can suggest when to initiate the handoff (see column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 5).

A HO_START message sent from the base station BS1 to the mobile terminal causes the mobile terminal to change its operating frequency and start communicating through the new base station (see column 5, lines 29 to 32). However, there is no mention in Acharya that teaches or suggests that the transmitter data or the HO_START message indicates an identification for the handover, the data including information that defines a handover number assigned by the first network to the handover, as recited in the independent claims.

In contrast, the disclosed embodiments advantageously return a message when a new call has been set up in network NW2 to indicate that the new call has been set up to the network NW1. As part of this message or otherwise the network NW2 reports a handover number associated with the new call. On receiving this handover number from the network NW2 the network NW1 knows that the handover can be completed by means of the new call. In this way, the first network is able to identify that the handover has been completed (see page 8, paragraph 1 of the application).

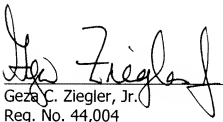
None of the prior art documents teach or disclose a combination of features as required by the independent claims. Indeed, there is no hint or suggestion in any of the prior art documents about providing a handover number in data transmitted to the mobile

station from the first network. Therefore, no combination of the prior art documents would result in a combination of features as required by the independent claims.

For these reasons at least, the claims are inventive over the prior art documents. Entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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11 June 2007
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